



**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

The Role of NTSB: Improving Safety through Accident Investigation

Robert L. Sumwalt, III



- NTSB is an independent federal agency
 - investigate transportation accidents
 - determine probable cause
 - issue safety recommendations



NTSB



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Facilities

- Headquartered in Washington, DC
- 4 Regional Offices
- NTSB Training Center





Our greatest virtues:
Independence
Credibility



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The Board



Earl Weener



Bella Dinh-Zarr
Vice Chairman



Chris Hart
Chairman



Robert Sumwalt



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Breaking News: A plane has crashed.



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NTSB Response Operations Center



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LAUNCH IN
PROGRESS

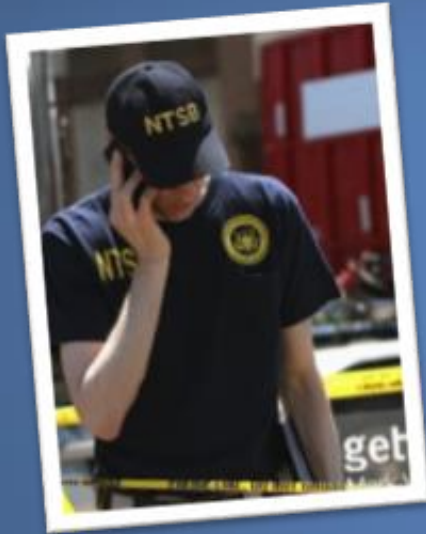


Determining the
level of response

Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Data Collection Accident ("C-Form")

- Non-injury GA accidents
- No airworthiness issues



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Different Types of NTSB Investigations



Limited Investigation



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Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Regional Investigation



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Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Go-Team Investigation



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Anatomy of an accident investigation

NOTIFICATION + 2 HOURS



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The Launch



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Enroute



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Arrival on Scene



Boots on the Ground

Go-teams have specialists in:

- Powerplants
- Structures
- Systems
- Operations
- Human performance
- Survival factors
- Airworthiness
- ATC
- Transportation Disaster Assistance
- Meteorology
- Recorders





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The Hunt for ...



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The “Black Boxes”



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Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 3 - 4



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Investigative Hearing



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Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 12

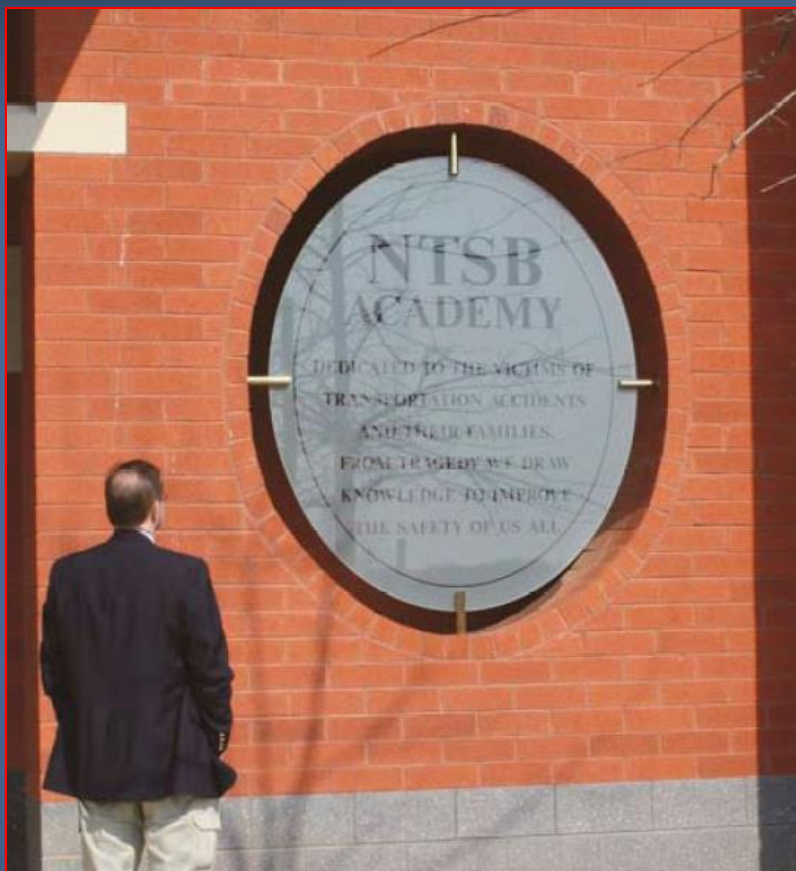


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Board Meeting



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“From tragedy we draw knowledge to improve the safety of us all.”



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National Transportation Safety Board